

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000630

OUTCOME: 2 - Health Access and Support Services

Topic: Remote Area Nurse Safety

Type of Question: Hansard Page 46, 30 May 2017

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore, Skye

Question:

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Did you in the past, when you were first involved with this?

Senator Nash: No, I was the Minister for Rural Health, but Minister Ley was the senior minister and so she did the COAG arrangements.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Did she take the issue of remote area nurse safety to COAG?

Senator Nash: I would need to check, but from recollection I think she did after the initial round table that we had.

Mr Bowles: I would have to take on notice the detail, but my recollection is that it has definitely been discussed at a COAG Health Council meeting. I cannot recall all the details, but it was clearly an issue that many of the ministers were particularly interested in at the time. I can take on notice when that might have been discussed.

Answer:

There is no formal record of the matter of remote area nurse safety having been discussed at the COAG Health Council. However, on 27 April 2016, shortly after the death of remote area nurse Gayle Woodford, Senator Nash, then Minister for Rural Health, wrote to all Health Ministers requesting that they work together strategically to ensure that all health workers are safe while providing services in remote areas.

The CRANaplus Remote Area Safety and Security Health Workforce Safety and Security Report: Literature Review, Consultation and Security Survey Results Report, was discussed at the Health Workforce Principal Committee meeting on 4 May 2017.